

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Instruction

1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena

June 18-19, 2009

Members in Attendance: Terry Galle, Carroll DeCouteau, Tim Norbeck, Sharon Lindstrom, Samantha Hendricks (Friday), Ken Miller, Betsy Stimatz, Dustin Shipman, Jackie Emerson, Dave Mahon, Wanda Grinde, Denise Herman (Friday)

Excused Members: Mark Thatcher, Susan Gunn, Rena Steyaert, Samantha Hendricks (Thursday), Pam Campbell, Denise Herman (Thursday), Jackie Emerson (Friday)

Non-Members in Attendance: Tim Harris, Frank Podobnik, Dick Trerise, Tara Ferriter-Smith, Linda Peterson, Susan Bailey-Anderson, Karen Crogan, Marlene Wallis

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Chairperson Terry Galle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members and guests introduced themselves. Chairperson Galle requested that the Panel members review the Proposed Agenda and the Minutes of April 30-May 1, 2009. Tim Norbeck moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Dave Mahon seconded the motion and the motion passed; the Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

Following review of the Minutes of the April 30-May 1, 2009, meeting, corrections to the minutes are as follows: Tim Norbeck, Sharon Lindstrom, and Betsy Stimatz were not in attendance on Thursday and Friday as noted in the April 30-May 1, 2009, minutes.

Sharon Lindstrom moved to accept the minutes, with the corrections, of the April 30-May 1, 2009, Panel meeting, Jackie Emerson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Announcements

It was announced that the Panel would recognize Samantha Hendricks at Friday's meeting. Samantha is graduating from high school and will be married in July.

OPI Report

State Level of Determination

Frank Podobnik explained the factors used in determining whether a district meets the requirements and the purposes of IDEA consistent with regulations. He noted that we will not change the process used because it is best to leave it as it is. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be here in late August/early September. They will be reviewing how the

OPI determines whether a district meets the requirements and purposes of IDEA at the local level.

Frank said that notification was received that Montana met the requirements this year and went from "Needs Assistance" to "Meets Requirements."

Child Count Date Change

The Child Count date is the first Monday in October. This change is made to align the Child Count with the Fall Enrollment Count.

Autism

It was noted that there is a 10-12 percent increase in diagnosis of autism. Doug Doty will become an autism coordinator for half of his schedule and continue as a monitoring specialist the other half of his schedule.

Doug plans to research what other states are doing on site regarding autism. Goals will need to be identified for Montana and what agencies would be key agencies. In the spring, Doug will provide training to select groups within the levels of autism.

OSEP Verification Visit

The previous OSEP visit was five years ago. Ken Kienas is Montana's contact with OSEP. He will attend the Verification Visit. There are two or three primary areas that OSEP will be looking at: Data Management, Fiscal Management and General Supervision—State Monitoring and Correction of Noncompliance. Ken Kienas and Judy Gregorian are already working on the verification visit.

ARRA Funds/Maintenance of Fiscal Effort

Frank Podobnik distributed the handout "IDEA Funds Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)." Frank informed the Panel that Montana's share of the \$11.3 billion allocated to IDEA Part B programs is \$36,708,056. This more than doubles the total federal special education funds for Montana; it raises the percentage from 17.2 percent to 34.2 percent of the average per pupil expenditure.

The allowable uses for the funds are the same as IDEA, i.e., cost for delivering IEP services, supplies, equipment, professional development, and construction or alteration of facilities.

Uses recommended by OSEP include: providing intensive districtwide professional development for special education and regular education teachers that focuses on scientifically based strategies in reading, math, science and writing; providing positive behavioral supports to improve outcomes for students with disabilities; developing or expanding the capacity to collect and use data to improve teaching and learning; hiring short-term workers or extend teacher contracts for

activities that support transition to work; and purchasing adaptive equipment for students. Funds should be used for investments that can be sustained after ARRA funding expires.

Frank explained that the ARRA funds are 2009-2010 school year funds. The current year begins July 1, 2009, and ends June 30, 2011. Funds not spent by June 30, 2011, will be recovered by the state and redistributed to other districts unless district documents it will spend all carry-over funds by September 30, 2011. The IDEA Maintenance of Effort provisions apply.

RTI Update

Tara Ferriter-Smith updated the Panel on the Response to Intervention (RTI).

Tara explained the Four Types of Assessment:

Screening—involves all children and is usually done at set benchmark points;

Diagnostic—helps teachers plan instruction;

Progress Monitoring—involves measurement to determine if students are making adequate progress or are in need of more intervention;

Outcome—provides a bottom-line evaluation of the effectiveness of the reading program in relation to established performance levels.

Tara noted that Evidence-based instruction and Collaborative Teaming (school level and student level) are essential to RTI. She also explained that Fidelity is important to RTI because outcomes can only be attributed to our efforts if we evaluate and provide documentation in curriculum, instruction, assessment, collaborative team problem-solving process and the RTI process. Fidelity is assessed directly through observation by trained observers such as the principal, intervention specialist, instruction coach, school psychologist and school counselor. She also related to the Panel the Essential Components of RTI: strong leadership; ongoing assessment; evidence-based curriculum and instruction; collaborative teaming; data-based decision making; fidelity of implementation; ongoing training and professional development; and community and family involvement. Tara is working on obtaining more RTI support from other divisions within the Office of Public Instruction.

Accreditation Report

Linda Vrooman Peterson, Administrator, Department of Education Services, provided a listing of the Accreditation Division within the Department of Education Services. The division has an Accreditation Unit Manager, Accreditation Accountability Specialist, Accreditation Specialist, Data Control Specialist, Learn and Serve Specialist, Character Education Specialist and an Administrative Assistant. Linda said the Accreditation Division's mission is to improve teaching and learning for all through leadership, coordination and collaboration. She said that Montana standards-based education is a dynamic framework to improve student learning through

planning, implementing and monitoring of academic programs, learning environments and organizational structures.

Linda provided a handout that shows areas approved in Administrative Rules of Montana by the Montana Board of Public Education; areas approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; areas of Guidance and Regional Ongoing Professional Development; and the Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) and the On-site Review Process.

Friday, May 1, 2009

Chairperson Galle called the meeting to order at 8:30. There were no announcements.

Panel Membership Status—Election of Officers

Dick Trerise informed the Panel members of those members eligible for holding office in the 2009-2010 school year.

Ken Miller nominated Sharon Lindstrom for the position of Chair for 2009-2010. Sharon is the present Vice Chair. Tim Norbeck seconded the nomination and the nomination passed. Sharon Lindstrom will serve as the Chair for 2009-2010.

Dustin Shipman nominated Tim Norbeck as the Vice Chair for the 2009-2010 term; Sharon Lindstrom seconded the nomination and the nomination passed. Tim Norbeck will serve as the Vice Chair for 2009-2010.

Tim Norbeck nominated Dustin Shipman for the position of Secretary for the 2009-2010 term; Ken Miller seconded the nomination and the nomination passed. Dustin Shipman will serve as the Secretary for 2009-2010.

CSPD Report

Susan Bailey-Anderson provided a report for CSPD and the IDEA Professional Development Unit within the Division of Special Education. She distributed a handout showing the programs in the Professional Development Unit. Under the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), operating programs include Mentoring, Response to Intervention (RTI), Differentiated Instruction (DI), Higher Education Consortium (HEC), We Teach All and Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

Under the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), the following programs are included: Regional CSPD, Montana Behavioral Initiative, Early Childhood Partnership of Professional Development (ECPPD), Center for Early Learning Literacy (CELL) and the Para Consortium. The Low Incidence includes Deaf/Blind and Autism. Program Improvement includes: Transition, Achievement in Montana (AIM), State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), Monitoring, Levels of Determination, Accommodations, and Standards-based Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Retiring Panel Members

Appreciation plaques were presented to three retiring Panel members: Carroll Jim DeCoteau, representing "Teacher of Children with Disabilities," Terry Galle, representing "Vocational, Community, or Business Concerned with the Provision of Transition Services to Children with Disabilities" and Samantha Hendricks, representing "Student."

Call for Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Additional Items

Tim Harris informed the Panel that the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will do the review of Montana's Special Education August 31-September 2, 2009. They will be looking at General Supervision, Monitoring, Complaint Resolution, Due Process, Fiscal Accountability, as well as Data.

Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held September 10-11, 2009, Office of Public Instruction, 1300 11th Avenue Conference Room.

Panel Agenda Items

OSEP Review

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.